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(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR

6 July 1970

Files - NRO

MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON IMAGERY
REQUIREMENTS AND EXPLOITATION

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SUBJECT: Overhead Imagery Requirements

REFERENCES: (a) Memorandum for the DNRO from Chairman,
COMIREX, 19 June 70 [redacted]

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(b) Meeting of COMIREX, GMAIC, CIA/OSR and
NRO Staff personnel on 22 June 70

(c) COMIREX message [redacted] 222107Z
June 70

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(d) USIB-D-46.4/34 (COMIREX-D-13.16/7)
2 Feb 70

(e) USIB-D-46.4/37 (COMIREX-D-13.3/2)
27 May 70

In response to the urgent need expressed in references (a),
(b), and (c) for additional overhead imagery to support NIE 11-8-70,
CORONA Mission 1111 has been accelerated to a planned launch date
of 22 July 1970 [redacted]

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The costs of advancing the CORONA mission into late July, in
terms of the overall intelligence collection performance, are basi-
cally as identified by the Committee in reference (a). The following
subparagraphs address each:

a. CORONA Mission 1111 can be expected to be slightly
less effective in the standing search areas, due to advancing it into
the less favorable weather season; it can be expected to be much less
effective in normal search because of the great emphasis which is to
be placed on special ICBM search. Quantitatively a CORONA flow in
August or September with the usual mission-to-mission guidance will
return [redacted] of unique
cloud-free coverage in the semiannual search area. A mission flown

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NRO
review(s)
completed.

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in July or August with emphasis on ICBM search will return about
[redacted] of unique cloud-free
coverage in that same area.

b. The FY 1971 semiannual search satisfaction was expected to average about [redacted] percent under the previous planning schedule; the advancement of Mission 1111 will drop this annual average approximately [redacted] percent, an amount that is less than the nominal accuracy of search satisfaction projections into the future.

c. The effects on semiannual search satisfaction levels for the remainder of 1970 are somewhat more pronounced. Advancing Mission 1111 will, naturally, increase the status at the end of July and August. It will conversely decrease the expected satisfaction for the following 6 months, primarily due to its decreased general search productivity. The satisfaction level should be near, or perhaps slightly below, [redacted] percent for the 4 months between the end of September and the end of December. As you are well aware, a level below [redacted] percent was termed unsatisfactory by the USIB FY 1971 guidance to the NRO, reference (d).

Please note that the projections of expected CORONA search satisfaction are based on the old USIB requirements and not on those revised search areas delineated in reference (e), which were approved by USIB on 9 June 1970. A preliminary appraisal by my staff indicates that the semiannual search satisfaction levels are expected to be slightly higher under the new requirements statement, thus the figures appearing earlier in this response can be considered somewhat conservative.

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As for CORONA Mission 1112, we plan to launch it on 18 November 1970 as previously scheduled, although an over 3-month gap, which you have noted, will occur. As I see it, the choice COMIREX is making is to dedicate Mission 1111 to an ICBM search at the cost of an increased gap in later CORONA coverage.

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F. Robert Naka

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